MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Israeli Position -- The "terrorists" must all leave Beirut, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reaffirmed in an interview with MA'ARIV. They will not be able to hold out, he said, and the Beirut problem will end within 2 or 3 weeks. In a similar vein, the prime minister subsequently told a U.S. Jewish delegation that the "terrorists" will soon leave Beirut and the fighting will be over, Jerusalem radio reported. Begin said he does not envisage any war in the near future after the fighting in Lebanon has ended. Meanwhile, Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i revealed that the Cabinet is determined to activate a military plan for the capture of Beirut unless some political arrangement is realized within a week or two, ITIM reported.

Israel can solve the Beirut problem militarily but prefers to solve it by negotiation, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the U.S. Jewish delegation in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. While Israel appreciates the importance of U.S. diplomatic efforts, he said, it will not make arrangements through any third party but will sign security arrangements directly with the Lebanese Government. Meanwhile, Israeli political circles stressed that Israel rejects proposals for the evacuation of the PLO in stages by way of northern Lebanon and the Al-Biqa' Valley, Jerusalem television reported. According to a subsequent Jerusalem radio report, Israeli political sources have said U.S. claims that Israel is piling up obstacles in the negotiations may have been made in order to prepare the ground for halting U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission to the Middle East.

Regarding the possibility of Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir visiting Washington shortly, government sources said Shamir will only go if the Israelis believe there is something to talk about, the JERUSALEM POST reported.

PLO Position -- A FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH editorial broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio called on the United States to take the initiative of recognizing the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people. Expressing anxiety that the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers have made facesaving agreements in Washington, the paper said the PLO rejects confining the negotiations to bartering the PLO's departure from Beirut for an Israeli withdrawal. The radio also broadcast a message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that lambasted the "painful indifference" of Arab and Islamic leaders to the invasion of Lebanon, reminding them of their national and religious obligations.

Syrian, Algerian Activities, Stand -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad paid a secret visit to Moscow for talks on the Lebanese crisis earlier this week, AFP reported citing AS-SAFIR. In Washington, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed that Syria adheres to its "clear, constant and principled" stand of refusing to accept the Palestinian fighters, who should only leave to return to Palestine, Damascus radio reported. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is the important issue on which all efforts should concentrate, Khaddam said. Algeria likewise affirmed that the problem does not lie in transferring the Palestinian Resistance from one Arab country to another but in tackling the central issue of a Palestinian homeland and state, according to Algiers radio. Algeria was surprised by claims that it might agree to receive the PLO, the radio said.

Egyptian Advice for U.S., Phalangists -- The United States can directly recognize the PLO and start negotiations with it, AL-AHRAM emphasized in a commentary reported by MENA. Egypt has warned the Phalangists not to make the historic error of supporting Israel's plans "aimed at destroying the Palestinian people," MENA also reported citing AL-MUSAWWAR.

Military Situation -- Five IDF soldiers were killed when an Israeli patrol encountered a "terrorist" squad which had penetrated through the Syrian-controlled area in eastern Lebanon, ITIM reported. The report added that the four members of the squad were also killed. Meanwhile, five IDF soldiers were injured when an RPG shell hit an Israeli vehicle north of Tyre, Jerusalem radio reported. According to a Voice of Lebanon report, Syria has reinforced its forces in 'Akkar, installing a radar device there, and has brought SAM batteries into Al-Qulay'at. In Beirut itself, sporadic firing and shelling took place round the city and in the southern suburb, Beirut radio reported.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

Egypt has reopened the Tabah border with Israel but insists that arbitration on the contested Tabah region be renewed, according to AFP.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes bombed Baghdad oil installations early 21 July, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Iraq, Tehran radio reported. It added that one plane crashed inside Iraq. Fighting continued on various fronts and one Iranian Armed Forces communique carried by the radio reported that an Iranian offensive was launched against Iraqi frontlines and successfully destroyed a "large enemy force." Tehran radio reported that Iraqi planes bombed residential areas in Ahvaz and Dezful and many were wounded. According to intelligence sources cited by the radio, Egyptian pilots have participated in bombings of Iranian residential areas. An Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio updated the figures on Iranian losses around Basra, saying that 1,942 have been killed since 19 July.

According to a report by the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told a Baghdad press conference on 20 July that Iranian losses in the current offensive had already exceeded 10,000 dead and over 800 captured. 'Aziz also denied reports that an attempt had been made to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Iran

The United States has not met its obligations under the Algiers declaration and has committed 21 violations of the agreement, the Iranian official in charge of the office for coordination of the Algiers declaration said in an interview reported by Tehran radio. He added that Iran expects Algeria to put pressure on the United States to adhere to the agreements and to publicly announce U.S. violations.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 141 22 July 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Chairs Government Session on Land Reform C 1

INDIA

Rao on U.S. Plans To Finance Third World Parties E 1
Indians Released by Pakistan Return to Delhi E 1
Rao Says 300 Nationals Still in Pakistani Jails E 1
Gandhi, Rao Want Homeland for Palestinians E 1
Gandhi: Talks With Mizo Leader Cannot Succeed E 2
New Uttar Pradesh Ministry Assumes Office E 2
Devi Lal Suspended From Lok Dal Membership E 2

PAKISTAN

New Ambassador to India Leaves for Delhi F 1
Yaqub Khan Comments on Stand on Lebanon F 1
Jews Conducting 'Intelligence Work' in Pakistan F 2
[Delhi PATRIOT 12 Jul]
Development Plan for Baluchistan Prepared F 2
[THE MUSLIM 11 Jul]
Bhutto Brothers To Continue Antiregime Acts F 3
[JANG 15 Jul]
Interior Minister on Changes in Law of Evidence F 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Thapa Government Blamed for Faminelike Situation [AFP] G 1
Former Prime Minister Koirala Dies 21 July G 2

SRI LANKA

Cabinet Approves Changes in Election Laws [SUN 8 Jul] G 2
Changes Opposed [SUN 13 Jul] G 3

IRAN

Official: U.S. Violates Algiers Agreement I 1
Musavi Returns From Algeria, Libya 21 July I 1
Reports on Talks I 1
Government Spokesman Holds Press Conference I 2
Further Details I 3

Materials Concerning Ramadan Operation I 4
Plane Lost in Baghdad Raid I 4
Joint Staff Communique 986 I 4
Ahvaz, Dezful Bombed I 5
800 POW's Arrive in Tehran I 5
Joint Communique I 6
Military Successes Announced I 6
9 Killed, 58 Wounded in Ahvaz I 7
4 Iraqi Divisions Dispersed I 7
Iraqi Losses Detailed I 7
Refugee Says Egyptians Staff Iraqi Government I 8
Welfare Minister Resigns for 'Personal Reasons' I 8
30 'Armed Insurgents' Killed in Urumiyeh Area I 8
[ETTELA'AT 11 Jul]
NVOI: Relations With Turkey Harm Interests I 9

KARMAL CHAIRS GOVERNMENT SESSION ON LAND REFORM

LD182116 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, chaired the fifth session of the joint commission of the DRA Council of Ministers and the PDPA Central Committee on land reform this morning at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

Comprehensive reports concerning the implementation of the first, second, third and fourth stages of the land and water reforms in the country were presented by engineer Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, head of the local organs; Fazl Rahim Mohmand, minister of agricultural and land reform; and Mohammad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation.

According to the reports, official land registry documents have been distributed in a number of districts in various provinces of the country, in accordance with the second operational land reform plan, to a number of landless peasants and to those farmers with small plots of lands and those farmers who had received lands previously [as heard]. This process is being continued in various provinces of the country.

Also, in order to implemen the third and fourth operational plan in the Deh Sabz, Baghrami and Chahar Asiab Districts in Kabul Province, urgent measures have been adopted.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, once again emphasized the question of continuing the process of implementing the democratic land reform in the country.

Babrak Karmal spoke on the importance of the distribution of official land registry documents and [words indistinct]. Drawing the attention of the responsible authorities in the party and government in this regard, Karmal said: With the distribution of land registry documents the right of ownership of lands by the peasants and farmers is being defined and they are benefitting from their lands. Thus agricultural production will be increased.

At the commission meeting, proposed by the National Fatherland Front [NFF] National Committee, it was approved that the representatives of the provincial councils of the NFF should be included in (?organizing) the conferences for coordinating and assessing the [word indistinct] of the country's provinces for implementing democratic and just land reform. The representatives of the NFF should also take part in (?forming) similar commissions in the respective districts and subdistricts, in organizing revolutionary committees for distributing lands and peasantry committees for distributing water, as have been and are being formed in various parts of the country.

The fifth session of the joint commission of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers adopted measures regarding the continuation and speeding up of the implementation of democratic land reform in the country.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Babrak Karmal, assessing the importance of the implementation of the development stage of the land reform, spoke on the need for the active participation of the provincial party committees and party organizations and he gave the assurance that the PDPA Central Committee Politburo will pay special attention to this important matter and will issue necessary guidance for the active participation of the organizations and party members in implementing the just and democratic land and water reforms in the country with the active participation of the country's farmers.

RAO ON U.S. PLANS TO FINANCE THIRD WORLD PARTIES

BK220852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] The government will be watchful of any development in regard to the reported U.S. intention of financing political organizations in the Third World, particularly for its implications to India. This was stated by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao while replying to questions in the Lok Sabha today.

The question referred to press reports that the American administration is proposing to finance political parties, labor unions and the press in the Third World countries to promote democracy and the Government of India reaction on the matter.

Rao said the question of assistance appears to be at the discussion and planning stage within the U.S. Government.

INDIANS RELEASED BY PAKISTAN RETURN TO DELHI

BK201649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 82

[Text] Ten Indians, including a woman, who were detained in Pakistani jails for about 8 years without trial arrived in New Delhi a short while ago. The prisoners, looking thin and emaciated because of mental and physical sufferings, were received by officials of the External Affairs Ministry among others.

A medical officer from the Indian Embassy accompanied them from Karachi to New Delhi. A medical team that was present at the airport is taking them to hospital for treatment.

The 10 persons were initially detained for a brief period for not having valid documents; but their detentions were extended from time to time over the past 8 years.

RAO SAYS 300 NATIONALS STILL IN PAKISTANI JAILS

BK220810 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Over 300 Indian nationals are believed to be detained in various jails in Pakistan. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha today, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said they include 40 defense personnel who have been missing since the end of India-Pakistan conflict of 1971.

In reply to another question, Rao said that the government has lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani Government on the unjustifiable reports published in a section of the Pakistani press about the motives of visitors from India and the socioeconomic conditions in the country.

GANDHI, RAO WANT HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIANS

BK210949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao have reiterated India's stand in favour of creating a homeland for the Palestinian people at the earliest. They were speaking at a function at which the prime minister handed over three truckloads of medicines and blankets to PLO Ambassador (Aweidah) as a gesture of India's moral support to the Palestinian people against the Israeli aggression. Relief materials are meant for distribution among the injured people in Lebanon.

Mrs Gandhi said the heart of every Indian is full of anguish at the situation unnaturally and unnecessarily created in Lebanon. Both Mrs Gandhi and Narasimha Rao said that it is not a question of settling the Palestinian people here and there. What is necessary is to find a permanent and just solution. Mrs Gandhi said the Palestinians were denied their homeland and their basic rights. The situation, she said, is desperate and all friends of the Palestinian people can only hope and pray from outside.

Mrs Gandhi also announced the formation of a committee headed by Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, member of Parliament, to receive voluntary monetary contributions for remittance to the PLO.

The Palestinian ambassador said he was overwhelmed by the support given to his people by the government and people of India. The gifted articles were collected by the India-Arab society following a call given by the prime minister.

The Lok Sabha will discuss the situation in Lebanon tomorrow.

GANDHI: TALKS WITH MIZO LEADER CANNOT SUCCEED

BK210751 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi told the Lok Sabha today that the talks with Laldenga, leader of the outlawed Mizo National Front, could not succeed as he had put some impossible demands. He had demanded dismissal of the present elected government in Mizoram. The government, she said, could not agree to this as it would have been a bad precedent. She informed the house during the question hour that virtually all other demands put forward by Laldenga were accepted.

NEW UTTAR PRADESH MINISTRY ASSUMES OFFICE

BK190808 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Jul 82

[Excerpt] In Uttar Pradesh a 26-member new ministry headed by Sripat Mishra assumed office this morning. Governor C.P.N. Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to the chief minister and the ministers at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow. The new ministry comprises 14 Cabinet ministers, including the chief minister and 12 ministers of state.

DEVI LAL SUSPENDED FROM LOK DAL MEMBERSHIP

BK211555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Lok Dal President Charan Singh has suspended Haryana Lok Dal leader Devi Lal from the primary membership of the party. In a letter addressed to Devi Lal today, Charan Singh has asked him to explain within 3 days his position regarding alleged anti-party activities.

The All-India radio correspondent learns that the action of the Lok Dal president follows allegations that Devi Lal had worked against party candidates during the recent assembly elections.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO INDIA LEAVES FOR DELHI

BK211024 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Pakistan Ambassador-designate to India Riaz Piracha left Lahore for New Delhi this afternoon to take up his new assignment.

Before his departure, he told Radio Pakistan's Lahore representative that he would try to improve the climate and dispel some misunderstandings between the peoples of Pakistan and India so that they could get on with the task of improving their lot.

YAQUB KHAN COMMENTS ON STAND ON LEBANON

BK220822 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan's participation in the emergency session of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement in Nicosia represents a reaffirmation of its full support for the Palestinian cause and its commitment to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement. The minister, who represented Pakistan at the meeting, was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning.

He said that in his statement to the plenary session of the conference he once again reiterated Pakistan's full support for the Lebanese and the Palestinian people in unequivocal terms. Pakistan also participated fully in the drafting of the declaration issued by the conference. He said he believed the conference achieved its objective by adopting a declaration which demonstrated the solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement with Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the face of Israeli aggression.

The foreign minister said that during his stay in Nicosia he also held talks on bilateral issues with a number of foreign ministers, including those of Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, India, Iran, Jordan, the PLO and Yugoslavia to exchange views and determine the best course of action to be pursued at the conference.

Replying to a question, he said the Islamic foreign ministers will be meeting in a regular session in Niger in the third week of next month.

Concerning the postponement of the Tunis meeting, he said some of the countries were of the view that better results could be achieved through bilateral contacts rather than in multilateral gatherings. He said, however, that Pakistan was the first to accept the call for the meeting and in doing so responded to popular sentiment in Pakistan. He said the Nonaligned Movement's meeting, under the circumstances, was not intended to replace the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization. Both are working in a similar direction.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said the messages sent by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to the five permament members of the UN Security Council condemning the barbaric Israeli invasion of Lebanon had a powerful effect. He said individual countries can only play their small part in exerting moral pressure and to that extent these messages have certainly had an effect. He said he cannot expect to bring about dramatic or spectacular results but by reflecting the strong feelings of the people of Pakistan it does contribute to the moral and political pressure which is brought to bear on a country that has direct influence on the future evolution of events in the area.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said the Iran-Iraq war was disturbing stability in the area. Israel had a sense of satisfaction at the 2-year-old war between the two Islamic countries and has benefitted from it.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan's military delegation had not been able to go to Damascus because Syria, presently in the midst of a war time situation, was not in a position to receive it. The delegation will visit Syria as soon as circumstances are favorable.

Asked to comment on Yasir 'Arafat's reply to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in appreciation for his efforts to deter Israel from its genocidal war in Lebanon, the foreign minister said in Pakistan Yasir 'Arafat has found a faithful and sympathetic friend which has never hesitated to raise the voice of reason and of morality on behalf of the Palestinian cause, even though it had to pay a huge price for it.

JEWS CONDUCTING 'INTELLIGENCE WORK' IN PAKISTAN

BK191706 Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jul 82 p 3

[Text] The people of Pakistan, who have been angrily condemning the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, have learnt to their shock that many Jews have been working on different projects in their own country for intelligence purposes, reports UNI.

The government-owned PAKISTAN TIMES has published three letters revealing that Jews have been visiting, or working in Pakistan as citizens of the United States. A letter from Islamabad said that several channels were being used by Jews to carry on intelligence work in Pakistan. The most commonly used tract is the one which winds its way through the mysterious bureaucratic lanes of Washington D.C. into Islamabad.

"As is commonly known, American laws debar people from retaining dual citizenship but the American Jews are exempt from their purview. An American Jew is automatically a citizen of the illegal State of Israel and vice versa."

According to this letter, "many Israeli citizens have in the past sojourned and continue to visit Pakistan on American passports as scholars and specialists sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, or by winning grants from the American institute of Pakistan studies."

Some Jews come to Pakistan as area specialists, sponsored by the U.S. foreign office, the letter added and alleged that they were sabotaging "our cultural, moral, political, social and ideological values by spreading rumours and by stealthily starting subtle whispering campaigns at certain predetermined periods of time."

One letter writer from Lahore, shocked at the revelation Jews were operating in Pakistan, wrote: "It will be interesting for every Muslim to know how and why the Jews are sneaking into Pakistan."

The first letter was written from Lahore by one "perplexed." It pointed out that while the Pakistan Government refused entry to an EEC delegate, David Israel (a French minister), there were Jews working in Pakistan although they did not bear the name "Israel."

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BALUCHISTAN PREPARED

GF210640 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Jul 82 p 8

[Text] Quetta, July 10 -- In order to accelerate the economic development of Baluchistan and to enable the province to catch up with the more developed areas, the federal government has prepared a 'special development plan' for Baluchistan which is supported heavily by foreign assistance.

A sum of Rs860 million has been allocated in the federal annual development programme 1982-83 under the special development plan. This includes Rs150 million from the own resources of the federal government and Rs710 million from foreign assistance.

During the year under review Rs137.730 million have been allocated from the agriculture sector, Rs90.900 million for water development, Rs129.30 million for transport and communication sector, Rs227.40 million for physical planning and housing, Rs246.230 million on rural electrification and Rs28.000 million have been allocated for self-help projects under the special development plan.

The total size of the special development plan is Rs20 billion, including 37 projects in agriculture, water resources, energy, industries/minerals, transport and communication, physical planning and housing, mass media, education and health sectors.

The implementation of the special development plan would increase the level of investment in the province and accelerate the pace of development and improve growth prospects. -- APP

BHUTTO BROTHERS TO CONTINUE ANTIREGIME ACTS

GF211805 Lahore JANG in Urdu 15 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[By JANG correspondent 'Ajaz Hashmat]

[Text] Faisalabad, 14 July -- According to informed sources, Nusrat Bhutto, chairman of the defunct People's Party, has sent a special message to her two sons Murtaza and Shahnawaz Bhutto advising them to stop their terrorist activities in Pakistan immediately and declaring that persons sent into Pakistan for terrorist activities should also desist from sabotage and illegal acts.

According to the sources, Mustafa Jatoi, leader of the defunct People's Party, who has just returned home from abroad, had been given this message to deliver to her two sons. According to the sources, the message which Mustafa Jatoi took with him said that under the present conditions in the country acts of terrorism and sabotage in no way helped the cause of the People's Party but in fact were causing irreparable loss to it. Fear and apprehension are increasing among party workers because police, under the pretext of terrorist activities, are harassing party workers and involving them in the criminal charges. This, in turn, prejudices the families of workers against the party and is causing it an irreparable loss in popularity. It is also strengthening the government's hand.

The sources report that Murtaza and Shahnawaz Bhutto told Mustafa Jatoi clearly that they would not give up acts of terrorism and would continue their activities against the government.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON CHANGES IN LAW OF EVIDENCE

BK120757 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jul 82

[Text] Certain changes in the law of evidence are being made to encourage the common people to assist law enforcement organizations in maintaining the law and order situation in the country. This was stated by Federal Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon while addressing an iftar [Ramadan fast-breaking] party in Lahore which was hosted by a local councillor in his honor. He said this step is being taken because people hesitate to assist the police in investigations owing to certain complications in existing laws. The interiorminister said that qazi courts are also being set up shortly for quicker disposal of litigations.

NEPAL

THAPA GOVERNMENT BLAMED FOR FAMINELIKE SITUATION

BK180706 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 18 Jul 82

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, July 17 (AFP) -- Despite record food production in the last year people in 59 of Nepal's 75 districts are suffering severe food shortages and the Thapa government has faced unprecedented criticism for its handling of the crisis by National Panchayat (legislature) members.

A National Panchayat member said that there had been three deaths from starvation in his district and it was reported yesterday that 39 people died of gastro-enteritis after eating unsuitable food in the face of grain shortages in most of the country.

But Nepal had a record food production of about 3.9 million tons during the last fiscal year (ending July 16) -- 3.6 percent [more] than in 1980-1981.

The government has been forced to rush food by army helicopter to the affected areas -- mainly the northern hills and mountainous far western districts -- to try to avert starvation. But several National Panchayat members have charged the government with gross negligence in not introducing quickly enough emergency measures to supply food.

The anti-Thapa lobby in the National Panchayat gained unprecedented support in the house -- some 62 percent -- in tabling a motion of public importance against the government and forcing a debate on the famine-like situation, expected to be discussed this week. It is the first time that a majority of members of the National Panchayat have agreed to discuss the possible famine in critical terms.

The Thapa government's food policy, which is believed to have contributed to food price rises also came in for strong criticism from Panchayat members.

One member told the house that the northern sector of his zone was facing severe food shortage and one sack of rice cost four times more than in Katmandu.

Members also want to urge the government to make special arrangements to avert the starvation deaths in different parts of the kingdom.

In the general debate on the food situation, Nepalese Minister for Finance and Local Supplies Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant assured the house that the government was making special arrangements to supply food to the affected areas.

But National Panchayat members have laid the blame on Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa's government for negligence in not supplying food on time.

According to a senior spokesman of the Nepalese Ministry of Local Supply, the government had exported 36,000 metric tons of food grain to Bangladesh, Mauritius and Singapore early this year. But the spokesman stressed that a similar amount had been kept back as a buffer stock maintained in different districts. The spokesman said "the only problem for us is to get the food distributed by earliest means and therefore we have used Army helicopter to transport food grains in Humla, Dolpa and Mugu districts in far north western Nepal." In other areas we are going to use the buffer stock in order to continue the supply line, he added.

The situation has been made worse by climatic conditions. Strong hail storms lashed the mid-mountainous and low land tropical regions a couple of months ago and destroyed 80 percent of the maize crop which forms the staple diet for people in these regions and they are now suffering food shortages.

In addition, Panchayat members told the government that because of the late monsoon, which has already affected rice planting in several districts, there was a likelihood of famine occurring this winter. Of the total cultivatable land only 14 percent has irrigation facility and the rest is dependent on the monsoon rains.

Meanwhile, the Nepalese Government is reported to have asked the European Economic Community (EEC) for food grain aid totaling 8,000 metric tons of wheat. The EEC has granted the aid, which is to be sold at subsidised prices and used to finance the transport of food to the deficit areas.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER KOIRALA DIES 21 JULY

BK211506 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Former Prime Minister Bisweswore Prasad Koirala passed away today at his residence in Katmandu. He fell into a coma after two strokes in a Bangkok hospital. Koirala was brought back to Katmandu in a comatose condition this afternoon.

SRI LANKA

CABINET APPROVES CHANGES IN ELECTION LAWS

BK171027 Colombo SUN in English 8 Jul 82 p 1

[By Jennifer Henricus and Lalith Allahakoon]

[Te.c] An early presidential poll became imminent yesterday as the Cabinet decided to adopt a series of far-reaching changes to the election laws and the Constitution.

Ministers approved the preparation of legislation to remove the present restriction on the president seeking a mandate before the expiry of the term of his office and to enable the president to call for a presidential election.

The Constitution presently states that "the president of the republic shall be elected by the people, and shall hold office for the term of six years".

The Cabinet approved in principle the amendments and this will now enable the president to call for a presidential election in time after four years of his assumption of office.

J.R. Jayewardene, the first executive president of Sri Lanka, has already completed four years after assumption of office on February 4, 1978.

Shortly after the Cabinet meeting, President Jayewardene disclosed these decisions to party leaders in Parliament at his office. Members of the opposition who met him were V.N. Navaratnam, TULF; Maithripala Senanayake, SLFP (M); Sarath Muttetuwegama, CP; and R. Sampanthan, TULF.

Any person making use of a person who had lost civic rights during a election would be deemed to have committed a corrupt practice. On an injuction being applied for in the courts (Court of Appeal) in this regard, during the course of the election, votes for that party in respect of that district will not be counted.

A person who has been deprived of his civic rights, such as former Premier Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, by a special presidential commission will be subject to no further disqualification, the Cabinet also decided.

On an election petition on this ground, the candidates of the party so elected will not be able to sit in Parliament pending a determination of that election petition. Election petitions will be determined within two months of filing.

Members of Parliament soon after a general election will be permitted to cross over "to participate in the formation of a government for the purpose of assuring a stable government". Cabinet Spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis said yesterday that this provision, which will be provided to members of Parliament of all parties, will be restricted. He said that this restriction may apply to a period of about 21 days.

Present restrictions on the president in dissolving Parliament in the first year will be removed. Provision will be made for the president to dissolve Parliament in the first year after a general election on not more than two occasions.

The Cabinet approved the preparation of legislation to change the present provisions regarding making available TV time and broadcasting time as between political parties which is mandatory, to be determined by administrative means after consultation with the opposition.

Changes Opposed

BK171139 Colombo SUN in English 13 Jul 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Amendments"]

[Text] Last week the Cabinet of ministers approved a series of wideranging constitutional changes. The proposed amendments are not only controversial in character but appear at first glance to be motivated by party considerations. Even a schoolboy could detect that the underlying purpose of the proposed changes was a naked attempt to perpetuate the United National Party [UNP].

The latest exercise in constitution tinkering, it appears, is an affront to the democratic traditions and to the philosophy that the United National Party leadership professes. These contemplated changes cannot by any stretch of the imagination be labelled 'righteous'.

The protagonists of the constitutional changes argue that these are necessary in order to give a human face to the Constitution of 1978, particularly as regards the new fangled proportional representation [PR] electoral system.

With the vast majority at its command the government can of course bulldoze its way and ensure that these unpopular amendments are placed on the statute book.

If these changes were really necessary why were they not made before? Much misunderstanding could have been avoided. The government would then have avoided being exposed to charges of mala fide.

The propriety and the necessity to tinker with the Constitution by bringing in frequent amendments are open to inquiry. The present exercise could even be construed as a blow to the sovereignty of the people which the self-cu [as published] same Constitution boldly affirms.

It is lamentable that these amendments are sought by the persons that impeached the former government when it prolonged the life of Parliament through a two-third majority. For this those responsible were voted out of office and live to rule their actions as constitutional lepers.

Perhaps the government is convinced that if the changes were not made during its current term of office, it may be impossible to do so after the PR system becomes operative. But is the eve of an election the proper time to bring these draconian amendments? Hence the hurry.

We fear that even an overwhelming election landslide for the UNP after these amendments would be a pyrrhic victory and would bo so claimed by the defeated. We venture to think that even the 'Jupiter effect' that is supposed to be shining on the administration may not be bright enough to ward off the people's derision.

OFFICIAL: U.S. VIOLATES ALGIERS AGREEMENT

LD211148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Mr Mohammadi, the official in charge of the office for coordination of the Algiers declaration, accompanied Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi to Algeria, where he held several meetings with officials of the Algerian Foreign Ministry. Mr Mohammadi gave an interview to IRNA in which he commented on U.S. violations of the Algiers declaration, saying:

Our country knew the United States would not meet its commitments, despite its claims. Two years after the United States agreed to these commitments and the hostages were released, the U.S. Government has not met its obligations.

He added: The United States has committed 21 violations of the Algiers declaration, including the freezing of Iranian assets in U.S. banks. The United States refuses to hand over Iranian assets, has taken no steps regarding the dead shah's property and is trying to hide the truth from the Iranian Government. We have raised these violations both at the International Court at The Hague and in U.S. courts in order to prevent them from falling under the statute of limitations.

We expect the brother Government of Algeria, which is responsible for the exact implementation of this declaration, to put pressure on the U.S. Government and expose the violator of this declaration to the world.

MUSAVI RETURNS FROM ALGERIA, LIBYA 21 JULY

LD212104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, who had gone to Algeria and Libya accompanied by Energy Minister Ghafuri-Fard, Minister of Higher Education and Culture Najafi, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Azizi and other officials, after concluding his trip to the brother country of Libya, was cordially seen off by Libyan Revolution Council member Ahmed 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and a group of Libyan officials and also by the ambassador and [embassy] staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They left Libya for Tehran this morning.

According to the report, after a short stopover at Istanbul airport for prayers, the prime minister and his entourage gave an interview to a correspondent of the daily MILLIYET published in Turkey, and answered questions on various subjects, including the imposed war and the conditions set by the Islamic Republic of Iran for ending the war against the Ba'thist mercenaries of Iran. Then, after being seen off by the governor general of Istanbul and the consul general of Iran, the prime minister and his entourage left that city and arrived at Tehran airport at 1900. They were welcomed by Mr Aqazadeh, the minister of state for executive affairs, and a number of other officials.

Reports on Talks

LD212248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi following his return from Libya -- time and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Musavi, would you please tell us what was the overall outcome of your trip to Algeria and Libya?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I offer my congratulations to our honorable nation on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr. This visit was made at the formal invitation of the Algerian Government and we were welcomed with very warm hospitality. I would like to add here that we received a similar warm welcome in Libya too.

Under the present circumstances, and in our situation concerning the Iraq-imposed war, this kind of hospitality can be very meaningful in the eyes [word indistinct] of the Arab countries. This makes nonsense of the efforts of those who are trying to pretend that this is a war between Arabs and Persians and the hospitality frustrates all the propaganda of Saddam and the reactionary regimes.

It is natural that we discussed the important issues of the region with our Algerian brothers, and we discussed relations between the two countries. We were a high-ranking delegation. We set up three political, economic and cultural committees. The committees reviewed cultural, economic and other matters and held talks which resulted in the preparation of a memorandum of understanding. Together with the Algerian prime minister, we signed the memorandum before our departure from Boumedienne Airport.

[Words indistinct] held brief talks with Algerian officals about regional issues. We talked with the Algerian foreign minister about the Iraqi-imposed war, about imperialist conspiracies in the region and in North Africa, about the link between these conspiracies, the method of struggle against Israel and the need for unity of Muslim forces against the arrogant forces, particularly against Zionism and imperialism. These were the main points we discussed with our brothers.

There are several interesting points in the memorandum of understanding. Our exchange (?should be) reflected somehow. From the political point of view it is important for us to declare what was mentioned in the memorandum of understanding about the outcome of the OPEC conference. It has become quite clear that from [words indistinct] Saudi Arabia was identified as the guilty party, and American policies in this regime have caused this problem.

Apart from these talks we and our brothers held lengthy discussions about the Algerian accord. You know that in this accord Algeria plays the role of supervisor, coordinator and [word indistinct] to some extent, and can be very effective in the final outcome of our claims against America. (?We are complaining) about the obstruction created by the criminal America in connection with the Algerian accord. We raised this with our Algerian brothers and asked them to be more active in this matter. They promised to review the issue and pursue it.

After visiting Algeria we went to Libya. We were very warmly welcomed. We (?had) meetings with Brother al-Qadhdhafi and Brother Jallud. Naturally, our discussions there were in two parts. First, we continued the discussions that we had in Tehran (?and we discussed) ways of implementing the agreements that we signed. We discussed the problems of the region. Because of its particular importance, we held lengthy discussions about the conspiracies of Zionism and imperialism in Lebanon. We talked about the pressure being exerted on our brother country of Syria and reached some conclusions. Naturally, we shall have further exchanges of views with our brothers about our decisions. This is a brief (?summary) that I can present here. [passage indistinct]

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD212302 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 21 (IRNA) -- The government spokesman of the Islamic Republic, Ahmad Tavakkoli, held a press conference this morning.

When asked about the recent statement of the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Hana [name as received], in which he announced one condition for ending the twenty-two month old war would be Iranian recognition of the sovereignty of the present Iraqi regime, Tavakkoli said that as a Muslim nation Iran could not be satisfied seeing a criminal clique, in clear contradiction to Islam and preserving the interests of the West, ruling Iraq. "We will continue our path until we root out this lawless regime", Tavakkoli told reporters.

In another part of the press conference, Tavakkoli added that the recent statement of the Zionist regime's prime minister, Menahem Begin, would have no effect on the determination of the Iranian people concerning the liberation of Al-Quds. "We will continue in this endeavor," Tavakkoli said.

The statement of the government spokesman was in response to a recent speech by Begin in which, commenting on the objective of the Iranian people in liberating the holy city Al-Quds, he had said the Zionist regime's army would destroy the Iranian forces halfway to Al-Quds.

Continuing his remarks on the subject, Tavakkoli said that such statements were expected of Begin; however, he said he was surprised with the silence of the Islamic countries concerning the expansionist goals of the Zionist regime. He criticised these countries for having failed to take a proper stance against the Zionist regime.

The government spokesman reiterated the point that the power of faith prevailed over the power of advanced weapons. Although the superpowers have been providing Iraq with advance armaments, the Iranian forces, relying on their faith, have been victorious. He also noted that the bombardment on Iranian border cities by the Iraqi Air Force, which has resulted in the martyrdom of hundreds of civilians, were signs of the weakness of the Iraqi regime, which was in its final days of power.

Citing the admission of the Iraqi ambassador to West Germany that if the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) did not act decisively to end the Iran-Iraq war, with the fall of Saddam, the regional interests of the West would be imperiled, Tavakkoli said the Iraqi regime was a protection for U.S. interests. He added that other Western and imperialist regimes should not rule over Muslim nations, and the Iranian policy remains inflexible in this regard.

In connection with the changing policy of some countries of the region, reflecting Saddam's crimes in the bombardment of residential areas, the government spokesman said that these countries initially favored Iraq but gradually they became alarmed at the atrocities committed by Saddam. First the United Arab Emirates and then other countries realised the rightfulness of the Iranian position, Tavakkoli added.

Further Details

LD212036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Mr Tavakkoli, minister of labor and government spokesman, has addressed a press conference attended by domestic correspondents, and replied to their questions. While congratulating Iran's Muslim nation on the happy occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, he said the following about remarks by Begin, the prime minister of the regime occupying Jerusalem, pertaining to the latest victory achieved by Islam's combatants: These remarks will not have any effect and we will continue along our path. But what surprises us is the behavior of the Islamic countries, so much so that despite the fact that Sharon says "we shall not confine ourselves to the plan for expanding Israel but rather will advance to Iran and Pakistan," these negligent people are so amiss they cannot even recognize their worldly interests.

Speaking about the recent bombings of residential areas by aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi regime, he said: This action is taking place because the Saddam regime is crumbling and, naturally, in order to continue its rule for a few more days it resorts to any action. But this very thing has made our people even more steadfast and resistant.

He added: On the other hand, everyone knows that the East and West are protecting and helping Israel and Iraq. But what they lack is the weapon of faith and just as the Koran says: It is this very weapon that will vanquish.

In connection with the reconstruction of the war-damaged regions, the government spokesman said: The government believes that in order to reconstruct, cheap building materials should be available to the people. Some of these materials are being imported while another lot can be supplied from within the country.

The government's task in this connection is to place a certain amount of money at the disposal of the housing bank so that it can be paid to those persons who could utilize these funds for the benefit of society and reduce our needs for building materials and ironware. In this connection, the government has set up a commission within the Housing Ministry to investigate requests.

Concerning the change in the position adopted by certain countries in connection with the war imposed on Iran by the aggressive Iraqi regime, he said: In the beginning these countries used to think that right was not on our side but with the continuation of the war. The UAE, before all others, gradually came to recognize the rightful position of Iran and when the realities became clear, of course, every Muslim felt committed to defending our position.

As for the bureaucracy in government departments, the government spokesman said: The Majlis presented the government with an approved resolution about 4 months ago whereby the government is duty-bound to (?reappraise) the organization of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to clarify common lines of action and do away with duplication of tasks and to present the Majlis with a plan to simplify organizations. With the tasks currently being carried out by government departments, ministries, by the Civil Service Commission and also by the deputy prime minister, who has been entrusted with supervising this task, we hope in the appointed time we will be able to present the Majlis with this draft bill for its approval.

Concerning insurance, Mr Tavakkoli said: Within the next 2 or 3 days the Ministry of Labor will issue a circular wherein the government undertakes to pay part of the insurance dues for small-production and technical workshops so that these types of workshops can be activated, so that production can increase and so that the closure of these workshops can be prevented. God willing, the government is determined to carry out this task over 3 years and the regulations covering this will be announced within the next few days.

MATERIALS CONCERNING RAMADAN OPERATION

Plane Lost in Baghdad Raid

LD211746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] According to reports received from the central Karbala' garrison, while continuing the victorious Ramadan Operation this morning, the fast-flying eagles of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out an operation outside the country and bombarded large parts of the oil installations of the Ba'thist, Zionist regime of Iraq in Baghdad and inflicted heavy losses and casualties.

During the operation, one of the planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran crashed inside Iraq. We hereby declare that responsibility for the safety of the pilot and crew of the said plane rests with the Ba'thist, Zionist regime of Iraq.

Joint Staff Communique 986

LD211730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Communique No 986 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Blessed be the great 'Id al-Fitr, which coincides with the victories scored by the combatants of Islam in the Ramadan Operation, in the presence of the holy al-mahdi [the 12th imam] -- may Almighty God hasten his esteemed advent -- of his rightful vicar, Imam Khomeyni, and of the entire Islamic and combatant nation of Iran.

According to dispatches we have received from the battlefronts during the past 24 hours, exchange of fire has continued in the operational zones in the western parts of the country and on each of the fronts our fighting combatants, by retaliating against enemy fire, inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

In the Meymak, Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin areas, exchange of heavy fire continued and Islam's forces succeeded in destroying 3 enemy tanks and vehicles, 4 trenches and several enemy ammunition dumps, and killed or wounded more than 20 of their servicemen. In these regions, thanks to our firepower superiority, the enemy's artillery was silenced and the movements of the aggressive enemy forces were frustrated.

In the exchange of fire that took place on the Marivan fronts, our forces, by opening fire on enemy positions, destroyed one ammunition dump in the Biarreh region and one in the Paveh region. As a result of our combatants' firing on the Saddamist positions, several enemy trenches were set ablaze and destroyed and at least eight of the Ba'thist mercenaries were killed.

Yesterday Iraq's Zionist, Ba'thist Army, using heavy weapons, set ablaze several residential parts of Abadan causing material damage and losses in lives.

At 0930 today the Saddamist criminals subjected the residential parts of Ahvaz to aerial bombardment and as a result about 40 houses and shops were destroyed. In the course of rubble-clearance operations, so far the pure bodies of 9 martyrs have been retrieved and 58 of those wounded during this barbarous action were moved to hospitals.

This morning the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the course of air raids outside our country's borders, bombed oil installations in Baghdad and destroyed a part of them.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ahvaz, Dezful Bombed

LD211804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] In retaliation for their disgraceful defeats at the hands of the warriors of Islam, violating Iraqi planes have bombed the residential districts of Ahvaz and Dezful. A Central News Unit correspondent in Ahvaz has dispatched a report in this connection. We draw your attention to this report:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the bombing of residential areas in the cities of our Islamic homeland by the criminal Saddam, at 0930 today, residential districts of Ahvaz and Dezful were once again savagely attacked by planes of the American Ba'thists. As a result of this cowardly raid, about 30 residential buildings and shops were demolished in Ahvaz and by 1300 today, 63 of our compatriots, most of whom were women and children, have been taken to Ahvaz hospitals for treatment. So far, seven of the martyrs of this beastly crime have been pulled out of the debris and taken to the Ahvaz mortuary.

800 POW's Arrive in Tehran

LD212228 Tehran IRNA in English 1926 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 21 (IRNA) -- Some 800 of the total Iraqi POW's, captured during the Ramadan Operation, arrived in Tehran after being transferred behind fronts, at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday. The Iraqi captives while chanting anti-Saddam slogans, were welcomed at Tehran railway station.

Joint Communique

LD220542 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Unnumbered joint communique of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] O martyr nurturing people of Iran, O Muslim nation: On the eve of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr the valiant combatants of Islam's army continue their victorious Ramadan Operation which was launched with the codename "O lord of the age, save me." Last night, once again by relying on the Almighty's endless might and on his eminence the lord of the era's special consideration, peace be upon him, they launched an attack on the deceived Ba'thist enemy in order to foil the world oppressors' conspiracies.

During this operation, which began at 2100, the combatants of Islam aimed at destroying and mopping up a large portion of the enemy's forces stationed to the west of operational region of the south, inside Iraqi territory. During this engagement the combatants of Islam succeeded in crushing the enemy's front lines along the operational axis at 2115 and reaching the heart of the deceived Ba'thist forces after clearing vast areas of mines and occupying enemy fortifications.

Our forces inflicted heavy and crushing blows on the enemy. A large enemy force in the operational region inside Iraqi territory has been destroyed. The righteous and defending forces of the Islamic revolution succeeded in destroying many enemy tanks and personnel carriers. They also captured a large number of Saddam's deceived soldiers. The exact number of enemy losses will be given to the Muslim nation in the course of future communiques.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Military Successes Announced

LD220954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0817 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: We draw your attention to a report we received from central Karbala' headquarters minutes ago:

According to a report received from central Karbala' headquarters, the joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, combative warriors of the army of Islam, following up their triumphant Ramadan Operation, which began last night under the codename "O Lord of the age, save me," inflicted blows and losses on the duped and aggressive Ba'thist forces.

The warriors of the army of Islam, who on the eve of the 'Id al-Fitr carried out an onslaught against the heart of enemy forces in Iraqi territory, in addition to setting ablaze and destroying 85 tanks and troop carriers on the axis north of the Zayd post, inside Iraqi territory, also succeeded on other axes in destroying many tanks and armored personnel carriers and nearly 45 other vehicles belonging to the duped and aggressive Iraqi Army. In addition, on this axis, [name indistinct] (?tank batallion) was completely routed by the warriors of Islam and its personnel were either killed or taken prisoner by the combatants of Islam.

Reports on other operational axes will be brought to the attention of martyr-nurturing nation which is constantly on the scene. "Victory comes from God and triumph is near." [Koranic verse]

9 Killed, 58 Wounded in Ahvaz

LD220948 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Ahvaz, July 21, IRNA -- Nine civilians were martyred and 58 others wounded today when the aggressor Iraqi aircraft savagely bombed residential areas of the city of Ahvaz at 09:30 hours local time. This air raid also resulted in the destruction of 10 houses and 10 shops as well as damages to 20 other houses and 20 automobiles.

Meanwhile, other Iraqi fighter planes, which violated the air space of the city of Bakhtaran and some other western cities of Iran, Wednesday morning, were forced to flee by the antiaircraft fire of the Islamic defenders.

During the past 8 days a great many civilian Iranians were martyred and a very large number of others wounded as aggressor Iraqi aircraft bombed the Iranian cities of Ilam, Khorramabad, Bakhtaran, Hamadan and the small town of Sargeneh in Ilam Province.

In Hamadan alone, 111 civilians were martyred and 595 others wounded Friday, July 16, when the Iraqi fighters planes bombed the people demonstrating on the occasion of International Al-Quds Day. In the city of Sargeneh, more than 100 were martyred and hundreds of others wounded.

In Ilam, some 70 civilians were martyred or wounded as the city's residential quarters were bombed twice.

4 Iraqi Divisions Dispersed

LD221030 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Jul 22, (IRNA) -- The Islamic forces destroyed at least 100 tanks and personnel carriers of the Iraqi forces and killed many enemy soldiers during last night's offensive, near the Iraqi port city of Basra. The Islamic forces infiltrated 7 kms into Iraqi territory northeast of Basra, near a fishing canal, in a seven hour battle with the Iraqi forces, dispersing four enemy divisions. An IRNA correspondent on the scene said that the Islamic forces returned to their previous positions after reaching the Kutayban stream. Also, according to reports received from Iranian listening posts on the fronts, the Iraqi commanders had ordered their troops to retreat as soon as the Muslim combatants crossed the stream, while the Iraqi "special brigade" had already (?abandoned) the battle area.

More details will be reported, as more accurate figures on Iraqi losses are received.

Iraqi Losses Detailed

LD221032 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Jul 22 (IRNA) -- At least 179 tanks and personnel carriers of the Iraqi enemy were destroyed by the Islamic combatants of Iran on two axes 10 kms east of the Iraqi port of Basra during a 7-hour offensive Wednesday night. The attack, a continuation of the Ramadan Operation, started at 20:30 p.m. on Wednesday and continued until 03:13 a.m. today, an IRNA field correspondent reported.

Meanwhile the number of martyrs of the Ahvaz shelling by the Iraqi forces yesterday mounted to 10 as one more body was discovered in the wreckage left by the bombing this morning.

It should be noted that since the inception of the Iraqi-imposed war, the Iraqi forces have targetted populated areas with their short and long-range artillery, martyring many innocent people in the western and southern cities of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran has so far avoided any air or artillery raids against civilian areas in Iraqi territory.

REFUGEE SAYS EGYPTIANS STAFF IRAQI GOVERNMENT

LD211156 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Khorramshahr July 20 IRNA -- After introducing himself to the Islamic combatants in southern fronts during the Ramadan Operation, one of the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin in an interview with IRNA said after the beginning of the Iraqi imposed war, the Iraqi Ba'thist purged the government offices of devout Muslims, replacing them with Egyptian intelligence agents. The purge victims were sent then to the battlefronts.

The Iraqi refugee, who asked not to be identified, said that presently Egyptian security personnel were keeping the Iraqi people in check.

The Iraqi refugee said many former lower-echelon Ba'thist Party members or fellow-travellers had become disillusioned or disgusted with Saddam and some had even joined the Muslim mujahidin.

He said not only did the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin recognise the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, but so did all the Iraqi people who wished to be his followers. Contrary to what Saddam was claiming, the people of Basra were anxiously waiting for the arrival of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to liberate them from the oppression of the Iraqi Ba'thists, the Iraqi refugee said.

He concluded by saying that except for a few individuals whose lives and careers are inextricably tied to the Iraqi Ba'thist Party, most Iraqi families in Basra were ready to welcome the Islamic forces.

WELFARE MINISTER RESIGNS FOR 'PERSONAL REASONS'

LD212056 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 21 (IRNA) -- The minister of state and head of the Welfare Organisation, Dr Mahmud Rohani, today announced his resignation. He said that his resignation was offered for personal reasons and added that Prime Minister Musavi had agreed with this request.

In a farewell meeting with the personnel of the organisation this morning, Rohani hoped that the committed staff of the Welfare Organisation would continue to serve the oppressed and needy. During the ceremony officials of the organisation praised the service of the minister.

Prime Minister Musavi last Saturday announced that there was going to be some changes in the Cabinet and Dr Rohani is the first member of the Prime Minister Musavi's Cabinet to resign since then.

According to Tehran newspapers, Minister of Ershad Eslami (Islamic Guidance), 'Abdolmajid Ma'adikhah will probably offer his resignation as well, which is said to be due to his ill health.

30 'ARMED INSURGENTS' KILLED IN URUMIYEH AREA

GF201300 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Jul 82 p 14

[Excerpts] In the purging operation named after martyr Beheshti that was carried out at 0100 on Thursday by the valiant and antiapostate Islamic combatants in the (Suman) district of Urumiyeh, some villages of the area, especially where the defunct Democratic Party was based, and the village of (Hursen) were cleansed of armed insurgents and a large number of counterrevolutionaries were killed.

The IRNA correspondent in Urumiyeh confirmed this report by contacting revolution guards who informed him: In the skirmish, which lasted 15 hours, the fearless Islamic revolution guards, Islamic Republic troops and the gendarmerie valiantly cleansed the area of the filth of the counterrevolutionaries, especially some strategic hills in the Shahid Soltani area and the villages of (Juni) and (Marneh). They liberated the Muslim people of these villages from the clutches of the unlawful armed elements and endowed them with the blessing of freedom under the auspices of the Islamic Republic.

According to this report, 30 armed insurgents were killed. A large quantity of certificates and documents pertaining to the defunct Democratic Party, which indicated their affiliation with the adventurers and feudalists of the area, were also seized by the victorious Islamic combatants.

The report says that the Islamic soldiers are in complete control of the area. By the grace of God, the fearless forces of Islam did not sustain any losses.

NVOI: RELATIONS WITH TURKEY HARM INTERESTS

NC180017 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 16 July carried a commentary entitled: "The U.S.-Affiliated Coupist Regime Cannot Be the Friend of Anti-U.S. Iran."

It stated that some officials of the Islamic Republic continue to refer to U.S.-stricken Turkey as the friend of anti-U.S. Iran and steps have been taken by some to expand cooperation with the regime of coupists.

Apparently, these gentlemen are unaware of reality and do not even care to look at official and semiofficial publications. Some time ago SOBH-E AZADEGAN and other newspapers published an interesting item on U.S.-stricken Turkey, and had these gentlemen read the newspapers, they would have preferred silence to continued support for Turkey. Reports on Turkey's affiliation to the United States are so many that we cannot study them in this short talk. We only suffice to refer to a report appearing in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on General Haig's trip to Turkey -- a trip directly linked with U.S. pressures on Iran, the Persian Gulf, Syrian and Palestinian forces in Lebanon.

Quoting foreign sources, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reported on U.S. intentions to set up bases in eastern Turkey, where it already has an extensive military presence. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's report flagrantly speaks of joint military plan -- something that can upset the balance of regional power, on building of new bases and on basing of rapid deployment force there. The objective of this joint plan is apparently not to protect the revolutionary gains of our nation as some claim, but our revolutionary country and the oil-rich Persian Gulf. In other words, Turkey's coupist regime grants the United States use of Turkey's territory whenever it wishes to attack our territory and oil-rich areas in the Persian Gulf. Everyone knows that elements of the past regime and former SAVAKists and officers are living in Turkey and are being trained by Pentagon and CIA advisers.

However, despite the existence of dozens and hundreds of documents and proofs, we can find some officials in Iran who consider the coupists' regime in Turkey as Iran's friend and work toward the expansion of relations with this U.S.-stricken country. These people are either working unknowingly or are knowingly helping the great Satan and counterrevolution. In both cases the result is one. They are harming Iran's revolutionary gains and will be held responsible for this.